REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are all the claims pending in the application. Support for new claims 26-29 may be found in the specification as originally filed, for example, at page 8, lines 6-19 and page 13, lines 17-19.

I. The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 10 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite.

In particular, the Examiner asserts that claim 10 does not contain antecedent basis for the "said luminescent layer".

Claim 10 is amended to clarify the language and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim Applicants' invention.

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' claims are clear and definite and it is requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

II. The Rejections based on the Cited Art

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by JP11-74079, JP11-185961 or JP11-297473 for reasons of record in Paper No. 8.

Claims 1-4, 6, 10-16 and 18-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by JP9-268284.

Claims 5, 7-11, 17-19 and 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 9-268284.

The Examiner's position remains substantially the same as set forth in the previous Office Action. Specifically, the Examiner considers the compounds that she previously noted to either anticipate or render obvious Applicants' claimed subject matter.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is not anticipated by or obvious over JP11-74079, JP11-185961, JP11-297473 or JP9-268284 and request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection in view of the following remarks.

As described in the Remarks accompanying the Amendment filed April 30, 2002, there are two distinct features in the main compound of Applicants' invention. The first is the substituent at the R6 position. The substituent at the R6 position results in higher stabilization of the compound, especially against light such as UV, and realizes sufficient reliability of the organic EL.

The second feature is the substituent at the ortho position against nitrogen of phenyl group bound to nitrogen of diarylamino group. The second substituent reduces the intermolecular interaction, and leads to higher performance of the EL.

To distinguish the present invention from the cited art and establish the unexpected improvements achieved by the compounds of the present invention, attached herewith is an unexecuted Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. §1.132 by Mr.

Ishikawa, one of the inventors of the present application. The executed version will be forwarded to the USPTO as soon as it is received by the declarant. As set forth in further detail in the Declaration, by the use of the claimed organic electroluminescent elements, the maximum brightness and the maximum efficiency are greatly improved. The cited art of record does not disclose or teach that such improvements may be achieved by the organic electroluminescent elements containing the claimed compounds.

Further, new claims 26-29 distinguish the compounds (48)-(52) of JP 9-268284, which have a group other than hydrogen in the R_6 position, but do not have other substituent groups on the rings in the position corresponding to general formula 3.2. See also the specific formulae 3.1-3.30, which contain a group in the R_6 position and an alkyl group on the aryl group of the group in the position of general formula 3.2.

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of claims 1-29 is neither taught by nor made obvious from the disclosures of JP11-74079, JP11-185961, JP11-297473 or JP9-268284 and it is requested that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

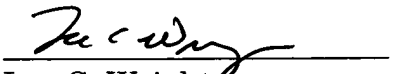
In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that their claimed invention is allowable and ask that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 and the

rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103 be reconsidered and withdrawn. Applicants respectfully submit that this case is in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully solicited.

If any points remain at issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the local exchange number listed below.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case. The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 23, 2002

APPENDIX

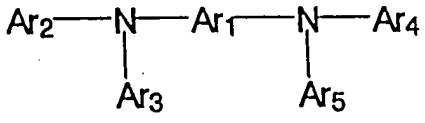
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows (Deletions are enclosed in { } type of brackets, additions underlined):

10 (twice amended). An organic electroluminescent element comprising one or more organic thin film layer(s) placed between an anode and a cathode, at least one of the organic thin film layer(s) being a hole transporting layer,

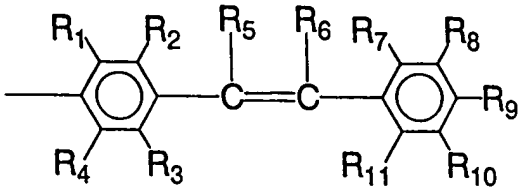
wherein said {luminescent} hole transporting layer comprises a compound represented by the following general formula [2.1]:



[2.1]

wherein Ar_1 represents a substituted or unsubstituted arylene group having 5 to 42 carbon atoms; at least one of Ar_2 to Ar_5 independently represents a group represented by the following general formula [2.2]; the remaining group(s) of Ar_2 to Ar_5 independently represents an aryl group having 6 to 20 carbon atoms; and at least one of Ar_2 to Ar_5 comprises at least one saturated hydrocarbon group having 2 or more carbon atoms in which oxygen atom(s) may be inserted; and Ar_2 and Ar_3

and/or Ar_4 and Ar_5 may mutually bond to form a ring:



[2.2]

wherein, each of R_1 to R_{11} independently represents a hydrogen atom, halogen atom, hydroxy group, substituted or unsubstituted amino group, cyano group, nitro group, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl group, substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy group, substituted or unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon group, substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group, substituted or unsubstituted aryloxy group, substituted or unsubstituted alkoxycarbonyl group, or carboxyl group; and two of R_1 to R_{11} may form a ring.

New claims 26-29 are added.